

open connecting conduit provided with pumping means and is further provided with closed means to discharge slag from its lower end, (c) fluidly closing the first vessel from the second vessel, (d) opening of the means to discharge slag from the second vessel to remove slag from the second vessel to a lower pressure zone, and (e) closing the means to discharge slag from the second vessel and repeating steps (a) to (e).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims: 4, 6, 9, and 10.

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4. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the water, which is poor in solids, is discharged from the upper part of the second vessel at a position way from the outlet opening of the first conduit entering the second vessel.

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6. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein the ratio of volume of water, which is extracted from the second vessel, relative to the volume of solid slag particles being transported to the second vessel in the same time period is between about 0.7 and 1.5.

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9. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein fresh water is supplied to the second vessel during step (d) and/or (e) resulting in that the second vessel contains fresh water before step (b) is performed.

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10. (Once Amended) Process according to claim 1, wherein water poor in slag is discharged from the first vessel.

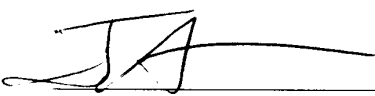
Respectfully submitted,

VAN DEN BORN, Isaac, Cornelis, et al

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P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463

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Attorney, Jennifer D. Adamson
Reg. No. 47,379
(713) 241-3901